"I WILL GET READY
AND STUDY AND THEN
THE CHANCE WILL COME"

DRAWER 6A SPURIOUS QUOTATIONS

SEE LINCOLN LORE #552

71.2004 OCS. 04997

Abraham Lincoln Quotations & Sayings

Spurious

"I Will Get Ready and Study and then the Chance Will Come"

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the

Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

71.2009.085.04997

Among those whom Lincoln served in Indiana as "hired boy" was Josiah Crawford, a well-to-do farmer living near Gentryville. Mr. Crawford owned a copy of Weems's "Life of Washington," a precious book in those days, and Lincoln borrowed it to read. "Late in the night before going to rest he placed the borrowed book in his only bookcase, the opening between two logs of the walls of the cabin, and retired to dream of its contents. During the night it rained; the water, dripping over the 'mud-daubing' on the book, stained the leaves and warped the binding. Abe valued the book in proportion to the interest he had in the hero, and felt that the owner must value it beyond his ability to pay. It was with the greatest trepidation he took the book home and told the story, and asked how he might hope to make restitution. Mr. Crawford answered: 'Being as it is you, Abe, I won't be hard on you. Come over and shuck corn three days, and the book is yours.' Shuck corn three days and receive a hero's life! He felt that the owner was giving him a magnificent present! After reading the book he used to tell the Crawfords: 'I do not always intend to delve, grub, shuck corn, split rails, and the like.' His whole mind was devoted to books, and he declared he 'was going to fit himself for a profession.' These declarations were often made to Mrs. Crawford, who took almost a mother's interest in him, and she would ask: 'What do you want to be now?' His answer was invariably: 'I'll be President.' As he was generally teasing some of her daughters or playing a joke on some one, she would answer: 'You'd be a purty President with all your tricks and jokes. Now, wouldn't you?' He would then declare: 'Oh, I'll study and get ready, and then the chance will come, and I'll be prepared.'"*

McClure's Magazine
1895

Lincoln's Diligence.

The Bluffton Banner 2-7-22

Abraham Lincoln was never busy in an aimless way. He set some worthy goal before him, and then commanded himself and his time and work toward it. While cutting wood he had a book with him and his resting moments were spent in study. His college of law was often the top of the family woodpile. One day, when resting his body, he was sitting on the ground with a law book on his knees and intently reading. A pompous squire was passing by and saw him. He stopped and called out: "Hello, Abe, what! studying law? Do you expect to be President some day?"

"Don't know," said Lincoln, "but I am going to get ready for anything God may have for me to do."—*Western Christian Advocate.*

LINCOLN'S MOTTO

"I will study hard and get ready and maybe my chance will come."—*Lincoln.*

This should be the motto of every young woman in this new day of opportunity for women.

For the least outlay, a standard, fully accredited Junior College Education for the young woman may be had at

William Woods College

Fulton, Missouri, Box 30

R. H. CROSSFIELD, LL.D., *President*

April 3, 1922

The Christian-Evangelist

THE MILWAUKEE JOURNAL

EVERY EVENING AND SUNDAY

MILWAUKEE

Oct. 4, 1929

Mr. H.Erickson,
453 Twenty-fourth av.
Milwaukee, Wis.-

Dear Mr. Erickson,

I am sorry that I can't give you the exact quotations you ask for. I have been unabte to find them. I believe, however, that you might get the information from "Lincoln Lore", a publication of the Lincoln National Life Insurance Compnay at Fort Wayne Ind.

Sincerely,

Larry Lawrence

453-24th Ave.,
Milwaukee, Wis.
Oct. 7, 1929.

Lincoln National Life Ins. Co.
Fort Wayne, Ind.

Dear Sirs,

The quotation referred to in the above letter from Mr. Lawrence runs somewhat like this, "I will study and prepare myself and when the opportunity comes I will be ready." I understand that this Lincoln saying has been engraved on the monument at the Lincoln Farm and have written to them asking for the correct wording but have had no reply. If you will help me in this matter it will be highly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

H. Erickson.

October 10, 1929

Mr. H. Erickson
453 - 24th Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

My dear Mr. Erickson:

The correct wording of the quotation about which you inquired is - "I'll study and be ready and maybe the chance will come." This quotation, credited to Lincoln as a young man, does not appear on the Memorial Building at Hodgenville but has had pretty wide distribution by being placed upon the famous picture of Lincoln lying before the fireplace studying his books.

I trust this will answer the question which you put to Mr. Lawrence.

If we can serve you further, kindly let us know.

Respectfully yours,

_____ Director,
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation.

LAW:VL

Jesse Ray Miller
PUBLISHER
3566 UNIVERSITY AVENUE
LOS ANGELES

March 31, 1930

Lincoln National Life Insurance Co
Ft. wayne
Indiana

Gentlemen:

We understand that you maintain a special department of Lincolniana, and beg to ask if you can give us any reference to the source of the quotation:

> "I will study and get ready,
> and then some day my chance
> will come."

We are referred to you by President W. P. Dearing of Oakland City College, Oakland City, Indiana, who have used the quotation on their literature, but can not refer to the source.

We have seen it used before but no one has seemed to know in what book, or speech it occurs.

If you can give us any information it will be appreciated.

Yours truly,

JESSE RAY MILLER

MH

"I'll study & get ready"

May 2, 1930

Mr. Jesse Ray Miller
3566 University Avenue
Los Angeles, California

My dear Mr. Miller:

It is seldom that we allow an inquiry to go so long without acknowledgment, but expecting every day to run across the quotation which you asked us to locate we have neglected to acknowledge your letter.

The quotation "I will study and get ready, and then some day my chance will come" is found in many different forms, but I have as yet been unable to find what I believe the origin of this quotation. I rather believe it is a reported quotation of Lincoln's as I cannot find it in any of his correspondence or speeches.

One familiar form is as follows: "Get ready and the chance will come."

While the first form would rather imply that it was to be found in a personal reminiscence, the latter forms suggests it to have been used in a speech or a letter, if it can be properly credited to Lincoln.

Enclosed you will please find a postal card on which it is used and you will note this was copyrighted as early as 1915.

I should be very glad to advise you if we are able to find any further information about this quotation.

Respectfully yours,

_____Director,
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation.

LAW:VL
Enc.

AKRON PUBLIC LIBRARY
WILL H COLLINS *Librarian*
AKRON , OHIO

January 23, 1933

Lincoln Historical Research Foundation
Fortwayne
Indiana.

Gentlemen:

We have been told that the following quotation is from Abraham Lincoln; if so, would you be good enough to locate it for us?

"I will study and get ready and perhaps some day my chance will come"

We are quite sure of the wording, but the locating of the phrase evades us. Any assistance you can give will be very much appreciated.

Yours very truly,

Helen L. Purdum
Reference librarian

HLP:S

January 24, 1933

Helen L. Purdun, Reference Librarian
Akron Public Library
Akron, Ohio

Dear Madam:

We regret very much to advise you that although the quotation "I will study and get ready and perhaps some day my chance will come" is often credited to Abraham Lincoln, can nowhere be found in his writing; at least this Foundation has not been able to locate it.

Regretting we cannot be of assistance to you in finding some authority for this quotation, we are

Respectfully yours,

Director
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation

LAW:LH

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Quotation ?

AKRON PUBLIC LIBRARY
WILL H COLLINS *Librarian*
AKRON , OHIO

January 30th, 1933

Mr. Louis A. Warren, Director
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Mr. Warren:

We are interested in your reply on the supposed Lincoln quotation, and are pleased to keep this information on file. Naturally, we consider this the end of our search.

This quotation "I will study, etc." by the way, appears in the auditorium of one of Akron's schools, and it was this school which asked us for the source.

We appreciate and thank you for your prompt attention to our request.

Yours very truly,

Helen L. Purdum

Reference Librarian

HLP:S

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1178

STRAWBRIDGE · & · CLOTHIER

LONDON
BERLIN

MARKET-EIGHTH
AND FILBERT STS.

NEW YORK
PARIS

PHILADELPHIA

March 15, 1935.

Dr. Louis A. Warren
Editor - Lincoln Lore
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Dr. Warren:

Mr. Hart Bloomenthal of Philadelphia was kind enough to give me your name as the best source of information regarding quotations made by Abrahan Lincoln. Would you be willing to tell me if the following quotation is correct or what the nearest thing to it would be?

"I would be prepared and my chance may come."

I will appreciate it very much if I may have an answer at your earliest convenience.

Very truly yours,

Gladys Carlson

Gladys Carlson
Training Director

GC:DA

March 19, 1935

Miss Gladys Carlson
Training Director
Strawbridge & Clothier
Market-Eighth & Filbert Sts.
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear Madam:

The quotation to which you refer is as follows:

"I'll study and get ready, and then the chance will come."

As far as we can learn here, this quotation first appeared in the book entitled The Early Life of Abraham Lincoln, by Ida M. Tarbell, published by McClure in 1896.

It appears on page 62 and is credited to an unpublished manuscript by a Hoosier.

From this you will learn it is entirely traditional, although it may have been said by Lincoln.

Very truly yours,

Director
Lincoln National Life Foundation

LAW:EB

CARL EIFLER, PRINCIPAL

DANIEL W. SNEPP, ASST. PRINCIPAL

BENJAMIN BOSSE HIGH SCHOOL

EVANSVILLE, INDIANA

August 14, 1937

Dr. Louis A. Warren
Editor of Lincoln Lore
The Lincoln Life Insurance Co.
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Dr. Warren:

I appreciate very much being placed on the mailing list of Lincoln Lore . I have had occasion to refer to your publication a number of times in preparing talks on Lincoln. This leaflet filled full of next-to-the-minute research on Lincoln is very valuable as a source of new and rare material on his life and work.

I am particularly writing to you for verification of a quotation by Lincoln which goes something as follows:

> "I will study and prepare myself so when the opportunity comes I will be ready".

Will you please give me the exact wording and the place and occasion given. I hope to use this in my office in the high school.

I deeply appreciate whatever help you can give me in this regard.

Sincerely yours,

Daniel W. Snepp

Albert Mitchell
THE ANSWER MAN
POST OFFICE BOX 1213 CHICAGO, ILL.

Mr. Louis A. Warren, Director
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation
The Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana

August 17, 1937

Mr. Daniel W. Snepp
1121 Ravenswood Drive
Evansville, Indiana

My dear Mr. Snepp:

We regret exceedingly that the Quotation "Oh, I'll study and get ready and then the chance will come," cannot be authenticated, although it was first used by Ida M. Tarbell in her work "The Early Life of Abraham Lincoln."

The quotatinn appears on page 62 and is credited to an unpublished manuscript by a Hoosier, and we do not know who this Hoosier author is, but would like to learn of his identity as we have inquiries quite often about this quotation.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB

Director

Albert Mitchell

Van Dyck
AFINE 6¢ CIGAR
The "Modern-Taste" Cigar that SATISFIES "SMOKE HUNGER"

Albert Mitchell

The ANSWER MAN

Chicago WGN
St.Louis KSD

POST OFFICE BOX 1213 CHICAGO, ILL.

Dr. Louis A. Warren, Director
Lincoln Historical Research Division
The Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Jan. 26, 1944.

Dear Dr. Warren:

One of my listeners has asked:

> "Somewhere in Abraham Lincoln's writings or speeches he used the following words:
>
> > "'Be prepared, maybe a chance will come.'
>
> "Can you tell me when or under what circumstances he made this statement?"

Any information you care to send me will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Albert Mitchell

MW

Van Dyck 32's

A FINE 6¢ CIGAR

The "Modern-Taste" Cigar that SATISFIES "SMOKE HUNGER"

January 22, 1944

Mr. Albert Mitchell
P. O. Box 1213
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Mr. Mitchell:

Since Dr. Warren is on his annual speaking itinerary, I will take the liberty to answer your inquiry.

In a letter to another person about the same quotation with reference to your question, Dr. Warren wrote:

"The quotation 'I will study and get ready, and then some day my chance will come,' is found in many different forms, but I have as yet been unable to find what I believe the origin of this quotation. I rather believe it is a reported quotation of Lincoln's as I cannot find it in any of his correspondence or speeches.

"While 'Get Ready and the chance will come' which is a familiar form, the first rather implies that it was to be found in a personal reminiscence, the latter form suggests it to have been used in a speech or a letter, if it can be properly credited to Lincoln."

I trust this will answer your question sufficiently.

Very truly yours,

mb

Martha Brown, Sec'y

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LAW OFFICES
of
LINDSTROM AND BARTLETT
420 W. P. STORY BUILDING
610 SOUTH BROADWAY
TRINITY 3718

RALPH G. LINDSTROM
WILLIAM C. BARTLETT
GEORGE L. SPENCE

LOS ANGELES 14

June 17, 1947

Dr. Louis A. Warren
Director
Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Louis:

Where was it Lincoln said: "I will study and prepare myself" and so on with some reference further to "and when my opportunity comes, I will be ready or prepared". It seems to me he said it. By way of confession, this Fellowship is all looking guilty as we are in meeting and no one knows where and when it was said, so we appeal to you.

Kind regards,

Cordially,

Ralph G. Lindstrom

RGL:A

June 20, 1947

Mr. Ralph G. Lindstrom
420 W. P. Story Bldg.
610 South Broadway
Los Angeles, 14, Calif.

Dear Mr. Lindstrom:

If you will refer to Lincoln Lore No. 552, I think you will get a pretty good story of the quotation which you mentioned. Although this article was written in 1939, I do not know of anything that has been discovered which would change the story as told therein.

You will observe that the quotation is entirely traditional and no where have we ever seen in any of Abraham Lincoln's own writing any statement which would parallel the quotation.

Very truly yours,

Director

LAW:CM
L.A.Warren
Enc.

June 20, 1947

Mr. Ralph G. Lindstrom
420 W. P. Story Bldg.
610 South Broadway
Los Angeles, 14, Calif.

Dear Mr. Lindstrom:

If you will refer to Lincoln Lore No. 752, I think you will get a pretty good story of the quotation which you mentioned. Although this article was written in 1929, I do not know of anything that has been discovered which would change the story as told therein.

You will observe that the quotation is entirely traditional and no where have we ever seen in any of Abraham Lincoln's own writing any statement which would parallel the quotation.

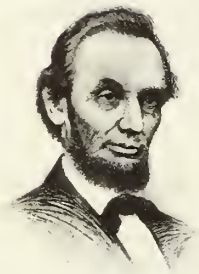
Very truly yours,

Director

IAW:CM
I.A.Warren
Enc.

"Oh I'll study and get ready and then the chances will come

Isabel 62



Its name indicates its character

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ASSISTANT ACTUARIES

THE LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA